

# Lives In The Balance

Richie Havens

I've been waiting for something to happen  
For a week or a month or a year  
With the blood in the ink of the headlines  
And the sound of the crowd in my ear

You might ask what it takes to remember  
When you think that you've heard it before  
How governments lie to their people  
And a country is drifting to war

There are shadows on the faces  
Of the men who fan the flames  
To those wars that are fought in places  
Where we cant even pronounce their names

On the radio, talk shows and TV  
You hear one thing again and again  
How the USA stands for freedom  
And how we come to the aid of a friend

But who are the ones that we call our friends  
These governments killing their own?  
Or is it the ones who can't take any more?  
So they pick up a brick, or a gun, or a stone

[Chorus]

There are lives in the balance  
There are people under fire  
There are children at the cannons  
There is blood on the wire

Shadows on the faces  
Of the men who send the guns  
To those wars that are fought in places  
Where their business interest runs

I want to know who these men in the shadows are  
I want to hear somebody asking them why  
They can be counted on to tell us who our enemies are

But they are never around to fight or to die

[Chorus]

There is blood on the wire

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